

Amendments to the Specification:

To the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 7, line 19, with the following paragraph:

The present invention also relates to apparatus including circuits for performing the operations herein. This apparatus may be specially constructed for the required purposes, or it may include a general purpose computer selectively activated or reconfigured by a computer program stored in the computer. The method and apparatus taught herein are preferably implemented in software that is both stored on a node's conventional memory and executed on the node's conventional processor(s). It is also within the specific contemplation of this invention that the method and apparatus taught herein are implemented on a non-programmed digital circuit, including a finite state machine in whole or in part. Such a computer program may be stored in a computer readable storage medium. A machine readable storage medium includes any mechanism that provides (i.e. stores ~~and/or transmits~~) information in a form readable by a machine (e.g. a computer). For example, a machine-readable medium includes read only memory (ROM), random access memory (RAM), magnetic disk storage media, optical storage media, flash memory devices, ~~electrical, optical, acoustical or other form of propagated signals (e.g., carrier waves, infrared signals, digital signals, etc.), etc..~~ The algorithms and displays presented herein are not inherently related to any particular computer or other apparatus. Various general purpose systems may be used with programs in accordance with the teachings herein, or it may prove convenient to construct more specialized apparatus to perform the required method steps. The required structure for a variety of these systems will appear from the description below. In addition, the present invention is not described with reference to any

particular programming language. It will be appreciated that a variety of programming languages may be used to implement the teachings of the invention as described herein.